

## BOOK REVIEWS

All reviews are prepared on invitation. Unsolicited reviews cannot be accepted.

**THIS AIR WE BREATHE**—By Clarence A. Mills, Boston, Mass.: Christopher Publishing House, 1962. 172 pp. Price, \$4.

In this small volume the author attempts to summarize the evidence of the effects of air pollution and tobacco smoking on health, with particular reference to lung cancer, bronchitis and emphysema, and heart disease.

Unfortunately, the author's statistical manipulations result in tables which embrace such small numbers of cases as to cause the reviewer to have grave doubts about their validity as proof of his conclusions. In one of the early tables in the volume he has recorded ozone levels in five categories based on his sense of smell, namely from 1+ to 5+. Such a criterion of ozone levels is exceedingly difficult to support on a factual basis.

In Table 4 he compares death rates from Chicago in several "least polluted areas" and "most polluted areas" for the year 1940, and while the death rates in the "most polluted areas" are in some cases higher than those in the "least polluted areas," in other instances the differences do not support the author's conclusions. In Table 6 the author compares a number of white males surveyed by age, smoking habits, and annual automobile mileage driven for three areas, namely, Cincinnati suburban area, Cincinnati Basin areas, and Ohio rural areas. A careful consideration of this table includes numbers of cases which are so small as to yield conclusions which may be open to question.

It is the opinion of the reviewer that the criticisms cited here apply to the volume as a whole, and one is left with the feeling that this book in the hands

of persons not familiar with the detailed literature of this field might lead to conclusions not supported by a sufficient body of data. It is quite clear that the author has made every effort to indicate that he has been a critical student of the problem of air pollution and its effect on man. Such a conclusion does not appear to be supported by much of the evidence cited in his analysis of the subject.

The list of references to which the author refers is quite extensive. These references are valuable to anyone who is interested in reading the original contributions on this subject.

LEONARD GREENBURG

**TOBACCO AND HEALTH** — Edited by George James and Theodore Rosenthal. Springfield, Ill.: Thomas (301-327 East Lawrence Ave.), 1962. 408 pp. Price, \$13.75.

The editors have compiled a group of 27 papers which were presented by 43 authors at a meeting jointly sponsored by the New York State Academy of Preventive Medicine and the New York Academy of Medicine. All the authors are widely recognized as experts in their fields, and the material presented represents as thorough, concise, and authoritative a volume as has ever been published on the subject.

The bulk of the papers represents summaries of original work of the authors with appropriate reviews of related literature. The subject matter traces the chemistry and pharmacology of tobacco smoke; carcinogenesis in animals; associations between smoking habits and lung pathology; and reviews "statistical considerations" on the epidemiologic studies relating smoking to mortality. Session IV covers subjects

ranging from the effect of nicotine on respiration to one on the social psychology of smoking. The papers in the final group deal with smoking and cardiovascular disease, allergies, bronchitis, and peptic ulcer.

In the current emotionally charged atmosphere—erroneously called “controversy”—about the health effects of smoking, this volume, heavily sprinkled with graphs and tables, presents more facts than opinion. The uninitiated will recognize some of the different points of emphasis but may not easily recognize the subtle difference between the detached objectivity of such authors as Dorn and Comroe and the selective objectivity of a few others.

DEAN F. DAVIES

**WATER AND MAN'S HEALTH**—By Arthur P. Miller. Washington, D. C.: Office of Educational and Social Development, Agency for International Development, 1962. 111 pp.

As the foreword states, “. . . this monograph is a part of the world-wide program of the Agency for International Development and the World Health Organization for the improvement of public water supplies.” It represents a fine job of collecting many interesting and pertinent bits of information regarding the relationship of water to man's health. For the first time the impacts of parasites, other diseases, and chemical substances in water have been assembled between a single set of covers.

However, for the practicing sanitary engineer the book holds no new information nor does it present startling revelations. It is just a good assembly of information which brings into focus the importance of safe water to man's health by listing all the many diseases which may be transmitted by water. By inference (and this probably only to sanitary engineers) it is a tribute to sanitary engineers for the truly outstanding contribution they make to public health in

providing safe and adequate public water supplies.

For the sanitary engineer who comes to the United States to study and the practicing sanitary engineer in many countries outside the United States, including the American going into foreign service, this book serves as a compendium of information useful to the understanding of water and its role in the health of man. However, one may be lulled into accepting the possibility of encountering the diseases listed by the very factual presentation of their existence. The author has apparently assumed that the importance and accomplishments of safe water are quite evident and do not require emphasis.

If translated into other languages, as intimated in the preface, this book can indeed be a valuable tool “for the improvement of public water supplies.”

F. W. MONTANARI

**THE NURSE IN THE SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAM** — By Gertrude E. Cromwell. Philadelphia, Pa.: Saunders (West Washington Square), 1963. 126 pp. Price, \$4.25.

This book while written primarily for nurses may also be of interest to school administrators, physicians, instructors in health education and nursing in colleges, and others interested in the improvement or development of school health programs. The author presents some of the philosophy of school health and places emphasis on interrelationships, techniques, and methods essential in a well-organized school nursing program. Through the numerous areas briefly discussed, a simplified version of the role of the nurse in the school is revealed. Major topics discussed include (1) the nurse's preparation, qualifications, certification, supervision, and policies; (2) the nurse's role in relation to students, school personnel, and parents; (3) her role in relation to official and voluntary agencies in the com-